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IZVESTIA, that its call "for a return to Four-Power talks on German problems... was rejected by the Western Powers last year."

THE CONFERENCE ISSUES: Except for criticism of the "attempted" Bonn "fait accompli" and tacit approval of the German People's Congress' campaign* for German unity, an early peace treaty, and withdrawal of troops, monitored Soviet broadcasts do not give explicit attention to possible Conference issues. Listeners are reminded of Yalta and Potsdam. And IZVESTIA reiterates the Soviet contention that "the Berlin question is only part of the whole German problem, and consequently cannot be settled apart from the questions relating to Germany." That the Soviet Union will be concerned about the reaction of world public opinion to the CFM debates is suggested by a Warsaw broadcast that speaks of the "uneasiness in the ranks of the warmongers... caused by the thought of concrete proposals which the USSR will present to the Paris Conference. The British and U.S. ruling circles seem to fear that the constructive Soviet proposals which will be made... might win the support of world public opinion."

CONFERENCE PROSPECTS: Although IZVESTIA grants that the lifting of the blockade and the convening of the CFM "may prove to be a first step toward further agreements," it warns:

"But it would be ridiculous and naive to think that the method of dictating can be used in the coming talks, which is undoubtedly the dream of certain circles, the most rabid supporters of aggressive military and political blocs and alliances. If any progress is to be made at the coming session of the CFM, this method must be discarded.

"It should be noted that those political circles in the U.S., Britain, and France which are strongly opposed to any agreement with the Soviet Union... are still taking steps through the press they control to confuse the public and build up an unfavorable atmosphere about the coming session. ... Apparently the same aim is pursued by the efforts... to speed the formation of a West German state, expressed in the hasty adoption of the so-called Bonn Constitution...."

And another Soviet radio broadcast quotes the "democratic Berlin press" to the effect that "the Bonn decision is a barrier on the path of the talks to take place in Paris." Some Satellite radio broadcasts are explicitly "suspicious" of Western "sincerity." The Prague radio, for example, interprets the Bonn Constitution as "clear proof that some subversive circles in the West wish to make sure beforehand of the failure of the Paris meeting by removing the prerequisites of an understanding." It also notes "another collection of (Bevin-Churchill) slanders and invectives against the Soviet Union," and cites an allegedly pessimistic BBC comment about the Conference outcome as confirmation of the saying that "the wish is father to the thought. There are people in London, Washington, and Paris who stand and fall with the cold war. The end of the cold war would mean also their disappearance. That is why... they fear concord and peace." But Prague concludes that they "form only an insignificant minority and that no diplomatic intrigues can arrest the advance and prevent the eventual victory of the forces of peace."

* Of peripheral interest in this connection, it may be noted that a Moscow broadcast to Germany on "The Attitude of British Conservatives to Germany and Germans" quotes from Lord Vansittart's book, LESSONS OF MY LIFE, in which he "openly admitted his hatred for everything German."

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